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TP

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/500,887 02/09/00 ANDERSON

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EXAMINER

VANDERPUYE, K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2661

DATE MAILED:

04/24/01

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

UX

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/500,887Applicant(s)
*Anderson et al.*Examiner
*Vanderpluye*Group Art Unit
2661

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1 - 21 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) 14 - 18, 20 - 21 is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1 - 8, 10 - 13 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2
- Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
 Other _____

Office Action Summary

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 8, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear what applicant means by "physical security data."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al.(5,892,912).

Claim 1 is rejected because Suzuki teaches an apparatus comprising:

a high speed backbone(ATM network)

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a plurality of branching nodes connected to the high speed backbone(Fig. 1@11, 2, 13)

a plurality of communicating stations communicating over the backbone through the nodes, the nodes each housed in different buildings(Fig 1@21-25)

the plurality of branching nodes comprising a hub directly connected with the plurality of branching nodes and directly interconnecting the plurality of communicating stations in digital communication(Fig. 1, SW-Hub)

Claim 10 is rejected because the backbone is made up of switches that communicate with the SW-Hubs.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-7, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al.

With regards to claim 2, 3, 4-7 official notice is taken that it is well known in the art that the equipment taught by Suzuki must be power up from a power source and housed in residences, buildings etc. The details of which will depend on the design of the network. It would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Suzuki with this well known ar for the purpose of providing the structural protection for the equipment and power supply.

Claim 11 is rejected because the source of power to power up switching devices is a matter of design choice.

Claim 12 is rejected because hubs are switching devices.

Claim 13 is rejected because the means for connecting the communication stations to the hub is a matter of design choice.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 14-18, 20-21 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth Vanderpuye whose telephone number is (703) 308-7828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Olms, can be reached on (703) -305-4703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-9051.


Kenneth Vanderpuye

April 22, 2001


DOUGLAS OLMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

The drawings submitted with this application were declared informal by the applicant. Accordingly they have not been reviewed by a draftsperson at this time. When formal drawings are submitted, the draftsperson will perform a review.

Direct any inquiries concerning drawing review to the Drawing Review Branch (703) 305-8404.